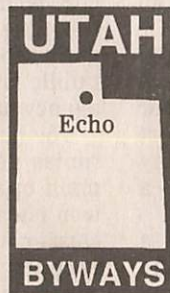


Rich in History But Poor in Sales, Echo Post Office Must Pare Services

By Christopher Smith
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

ECHO — The tiny white clapboard building easily could be mistaken for a railway utility shed or even a child's playhouse.

But it is the town post office, a reminder of the days when all of Utah's mail arrived at the Weber Stage Station here. And like the Pony Express, telegraph and transcontinental railroad, the post office in Echo is fading away.



"There's a lot of history in that little old post office," Echo cafe owner Frank Cattelan says as he sits in the front pew of the town church, built in 1876 and used by all denominations.

Behind the altar are three men wearing white shirts and ties. They are from the U.S. Postal Service and they're here on a summer evening to tell the townsfolk the fate of their post office, the only municipal building in Echo.

It is a scene played out frequently across the country as automation, unionization and deficit-slashing are forcing the federal government to eliminate

wasteful spending.

For decades, the Postal Service has tried to shut down thousands of costly small post offices nationwide. The government's own watchdog, the General Accounting Office (GAO), issued reports in 1964, 1967, 1975 and 1982, all pointing out the savings Uncle Sam would realize if these small post offices were replaced with neighborhood boxes, rural routes or contract substations.

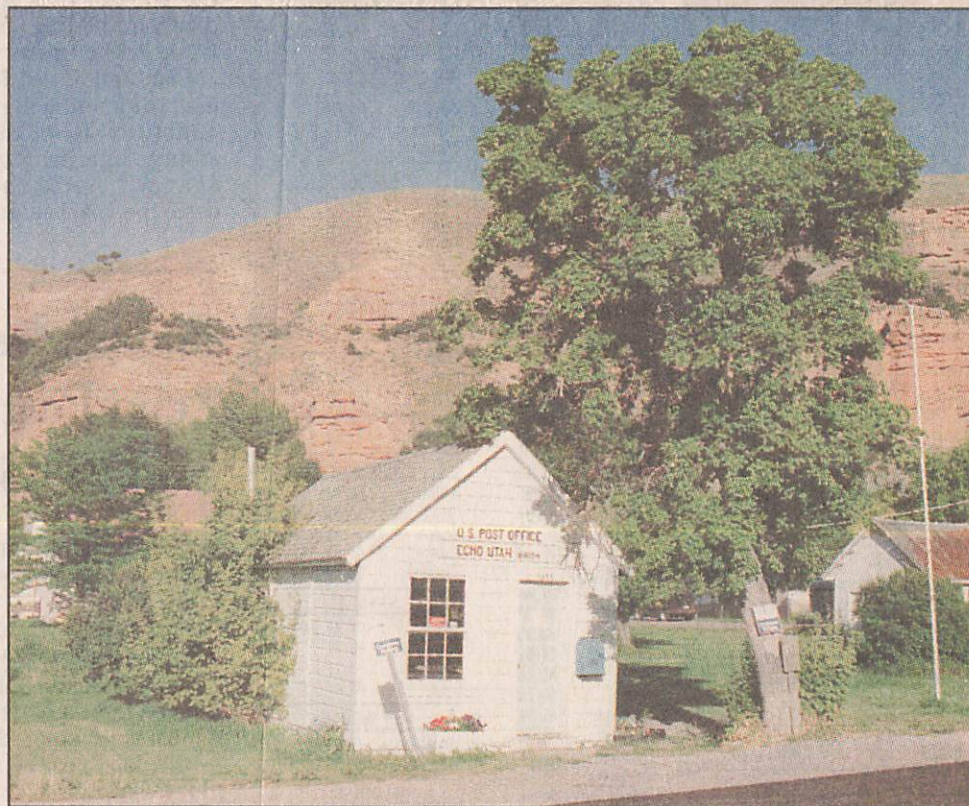
"With generally little and often no effect on the quality of mail service, the Postal Service could save between \$125 and \$150 million annually by 1990 if it replaced about 7,000 post offices," said the GAO's latest admonishment, in 1982.

But public outcry and politicians have kept the ax from falling on hundreds of hamlet mail hubs, with Congress passing laws to make it more difficult to close small stations.

Echo's post office, which moved into the little roadside shanty in 1928, is surely a target for the budget cutters. It has only 35 boxes, 31 of which are rented. It's staffed for four hours on weekdays, from 8 a.m. to noon.

For years, Ethel Raymond ran the post office, and her presence seems to have kept the accountants at bay.

However, when she died in May, the



Christopher Smith/The Salt Lake Tribune

Officials have decided the tiny post office in Echo, which has served residents since 1928, will remain open but will lose its postmark on Saturday.

postal service took a hard look at Echo. An average of two transactions were made each day. Revenues were slipping, from \$1,800 during the entire year of 1991 to \$1,551 in 1992. Through this year, the Echo post office has collected

\$1,346 in stamps and postage.

Compare that with what it costs to run the post office: \$15,737.49 last year, a deficit of some \$14,000. This year, postal

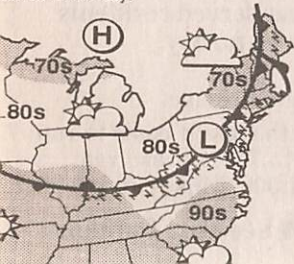
■ See D-2, Column 4

Day	H	L	Summ		H	L	Summ
dam	73	52	cldy	Kiev	72	55	fair
	90	73	fair	Lima	66	61	cldy
nd	M	M	M	Lisbon	81	70	fair
ok	90	77	cldy	London	68	59	cldy
os	87	75	fair	Madrid	97	66	fair
ona	95	64	fair	Manila	90	75	fair
	88	70	fair	Mexico City	77	57	cldy
	88	77	fair	Montreal	82	64	cldy
de	93	68	fair	Moscow	68	52	fair
	79	57	fair	Nairobi	63	54	cldy
da	84	77	cldy	Nassau	89	77	cldy
	66	38	cldy	New Delhi	100	82	fair
ne	M	M	M	Nicosia	100	77	fair
ls	73	57	cldy	Oslo	60	55	cldy
est	94	57	fair	Paris	77	55	fair
Aires	69	53	cldy	Rio	79	52	cldy
	93	73	fair	Rome	91	75	fair
y	58	55	cldy	San Juan	89	79	cldy
s.	84	72	cldy	Santiago	68	32	fair
agen	70	58	cldy	Seoul	72	66	cldy
	108	79	fair	Singapore	90	72	rain
urt	65	50	fair	Stockholm	67	55	cldy
	82	59	fair	Sydney	M	M	M
	82	61	fair	Taipei	93	79	rain
	91	78	cldy	Tel Aviv	88	75	fair
ong	70	53	cldy	Tokyo	79	72	rain
l	86	30	cldy	Toronto	83	67	rain
em	86	72	fair	Vancouver	69	58	cldy
esburg	91	68	fair	Vienna	90	75	fair
	73	34	fair	Warsaw	88	59	fair

Pollen Count

ld Moderate Trees 0
eds High Grass Low

Tuesday, Aug. 17.
zones for the day.



INTERMOUNTAIN

Yesterday	H	L	Prep	H	L	Prep
UTAH				ARIZONA		
Alta	69	51		Cyn De Chelly	92	51
Blanding	90	53		Flagstaff	81	43
Brigham City	85	47		Phoenix	106	80
Bryce	73	45		Tucson	103	69
Bullfrog	97	68		COLORADO		
Capitol Reef	M	M		Boulder	91	58
Cedar City	84	55		Colorado Spgs	88	53
Coalville	M	M		Denver	94	53
Delta	M	M		Grand Jct	90	61
Duchesne	M	M		IDAHO		
Escalante	85	44		Boise	67	47 0.02
Fillmore	83	55		Coeur d'Alene	66	56
Flaming Grg	M	M		Idaho Falls	67	45 0.27
Green River	M	M		Lewiston	70	57 0.10
Hanksville	95	52		Pocatello	69	49 0.22
Heber City	M	M		Rexburg	58	49 0.17
Helper	86	52		Twin Falls	71	52 0.01
Joseph	85	40		MONTANA		
Kanab	M	M		Billings	87	54 T
Laketown	73	42		Great Falls	66	52 0.02
Logan	74	46		Helena	67	58 0.19
Manti	88	41		Kalispell	61	54 0.15
Milford	87	49		Missoula	72	55 0.10
Moab	98	68		NEVADA		
Monticello	80	47 0.11		Elko	71	39 0.01
Nephi	87	48		Ely	80	37
Ogden	88	53		Las Vegas	96	71
Orem	83	48		Reno	80	46 T
Park City	74	51		NEW MEXICO		
Price	82	48		Albuquerque	90	63
Provo	88	53		Santa Fe	87	56
Randolph	67	31		WYOMING		
Richfield	M	M		Casper	90	49
Roosevelt	88	38		Cheyenne	85	52
Salt Lake	78	54		Evanston	71	42
Spanish Fork	90	54		Laramie	81	43
St. George	94	69		Rock Springs	78	55
Tooele	77	48		Yellowstone	57	42
Vernal	84	47				
Wendover	M	M				
Zion Nat'l P	96	59				
M—Missing	T—Trace					

ELSEWHERE IN U.S.

	Yesterday			Today		
	H	L	Prep	H	L	Fest
Anchorage	61	52	.10	59	48	ptcl
Atlanta	90	75		93	75	ptcl
Atlantic City . . .	86	72	.10	79	71	moel
Austin	100	75		100	75	ptcl

ake Garn, who wanted to ensure the spotted frog did not jeopardize completion of the Central Utah Project reservoir.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials did not believe Mr. Garn's opposition to endangered-species status "significantly delayed" the agency's decision-making process, the GAO said.

Poor Sales Force Echo Post Office To Pare Services

Continued from D-1

officials expect to lose nearly \$18,000 on the Echo station.

But the bean counters can't put a price tag on civic pride. To the denizens of Echo, this post office is the last vestige of the town's glory days.

In 1845, Lansford Hastings published his famous "cut-off" route to California, a shortcut through Echo Canyon and the Great Salt Lake Desert for easterners heading to California. The Donner-Reed party took his advice the following year. They met a tragic demise in the Sierra Nevada.

The first company of Mormons

issue a final ruling until May 7, 1993 — after Jordanelle started filling.

At that time, the agency ruled the species did not warrant endangered-species status, but its populations in certain areas did. Even so, the agency did not classify the frog as endangered because other species had priority.

Salt Lake City posted on the wall.

Echo was born, and dreams of a metropolis reverberated through the West. The Union Pacific transcontinental line soon snaked down the red rock canyon from Wyoming, boosting optimism for greatness. A *Deseret News* report in 1868 proclaimed that Echo City was the "small beginning of a place that may become famous."

While the town boomed as a railroad stop into the 1940s, the coming of the interstate highway in the late 1950s seemed to siphon much of Echo's life. It bypassed the community, and access to Echo's two cafes and motel is today a roundabout exit off Interstate 80 or a distant jog off Interstate 84.

There's not much left here, so the post office is worth fighting for.

"Will we lose our identity?" asks 45-year-resident Cora Dillree, whose Kozy Cafe in Echo is one of Summit County's legendary social spots.

"We're not trying to destroy

him on July 21 and July 27 at 196 LaBank. He said the the second time, Mr. Montoya threatened to cut off the boy's arm and leg if he did not cooperate, court records allege. Mr. Montoya faces two counts of first-degree felony sodomy upon a child. He was booked into the Salt Lake County jail and held without bail.

to close the Echo office and install a brace of galvanized steel mail compartments out front. But by the time the 15 or so residents gathered inside the church for a public meeting, the government agency had had a change of heart.

The building, with its bed of petunias next to the door, will remain open. The postmaster's job won't be filled, and instead a rural carrier will visit the Echo station each day for a short time to sell stamps or post parcels.

Annual cost of the new scheme: \$1,239, a savings of more than \$14,000 to the federal government, with nearly all the reduction due to eliminating the postmaster salary.

Dale Hansen, manager of postal operations for the Salt Lake District, says the agency didn't want to abandon the "fantastic deal" it gets renting the Echo property — \$55 a month, utilities included.

While Echo residents will keep their post office, they will lose their postmark after Saturday, when the new system takes effect.

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The first company of Mormons trudged down Echo Canyon in 1847, headed for Zion and religious freedom. By 1851, Congress was awarding mail contracts between the Missouri River and the West Coast. And in 1854, James E. Bromley settled into the new Weber Stage Station at Echo, a government contract for mail service between Pacific Springs and

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"We're not trying to destroy any history," says Bill Nebeker, manager of consumer affairs for the Salt Lake District of the Postal Service. "I'm sure the bus stops here, the trains still run through here and that this is a great place. But for two transactions a day, spending \$15,000 a year just isn't wise business."

Initially, postal officials wanted

to close the Echo office and install a brace of galvanized steel mail compartments out front. But by the time the 15 or so residents gathered inside the church for a public meeting, the government agency had had a change of heart.

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While Echo residents will keep their post office, they will lose their postmark after Saturday, when the new system takes effect. All letters mailed from Echo will be shipped over the mountains to be sorted and stamped with a Salt Lake City postmark.

"I sell postcards at my cafe and a lot of people like that Echo postmark," Mr. Cattelan says with some remorse. "In 1854 we had the first mail service in Utah. It just seems a shame."